

YUGOSLAVIA: Ethnic Tensions in South

Frictions between ethnic Albanians and Slavic groups in southern Yugoslavia are making unrest and repression increasingly likely. About 200 Albanians in Macedonia clashed with police on Monday after holding an unprecedented demonstration to demand more use of the Albanian language in schools. Serbs from Kosovo Province have held regular, large protests in several regions to denounce discrimination by that province's Albanian majority. They are planning a demonstration with as many as 500,000 participants in Belgrade next month.

The demonstrations are in violation of a national party order.

The Serbs and Albanians believe that their basic rights are increasingly threatened and are likely to step up protests in the coming months. Belgrade probably would send more federal police units to try to repress Albanian demonstrations if they spread to Kosovo. The government may also crack down on the Serbs in Kosovo, perhaps by arresting selected Serb activists.